FBIS DAILY REPORT

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[Georgetown CHRONICLE 5 Jan]

CARIBBEAN-L.A. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEETING

FL111550Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Jan 79 p 2 FL

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 4 Jan (CANA)--A United Nations-sponsored Latin American and Caribbean meeting on human settlements held in Mexico City has produced a wide range of recommendations on land ownership and use in the region, according to a statement circulated here.

Top of the list is a proposal that there should be the gradual establishment of social property as an objective, and in which the right to use property for a length of time to amortise the capital invested in building is guaranteed.

The meeting proposed that once that time period had elapsed, the land would once more become public property, according to the statement issued through the local United Nations office. Text of the release from the November 27 to December 1 conference follows:

"The Latin American/Caribbean meeting on human settlements finance and management of 23 countries of the region, held in Mexico City from 27 November to December 1, approved with certain observations, recommendations on the topics of the agenda as follows:

Regarding land:

A. The gradual establishment of social property as an objective in which the right to use property for a length of time sufficient to amortise the capital invested in building is guaranteed.

Once such time has elapsed, the land would again become public property. As a complementary element, agrarian reform legislation should be passed in countries where it does not already exist and such legislation should be amended and strengthened where it does in controlling rural emigration and its effect on urban growth.

B. Establishment of property taxes based on a registry of property values in accordance with statements that would be required of property owners in which they accept the value indicated as the price they would receive in the event of expropriation in the interest of public utility. This register would be revised periodically in order to provide monetary fluctuations.

C. Rational land use based on a comprehensive plan and new patterns of urban settlement to avoid uncontrolled expansion brought about by traditional mini-blocks and mini-parcels and the consequent reduction of urbanisation costs derived from excessive demand for land.

D. Implementation by the state of housing programmes to provide housing through rental or ownership with, however, the reservation that land revert to its status as social property.

E. The United Nations should set up an easily manageable special fund to support concrete proposals made by non-governmental organisations carrying out activities within the lines of action promoted by the United Nations, to provide information on situations and problems related to the design, planning and improvement of human settlements.

These recommendations were commented on by Costa Rica, Ecuador, Bolivia, Grenada and Chile.

Regarding channelling of resources:

A. The countries of the region should generate their own resources internally by means of incentives and systems in accordance with their individual circumstances, such as savings and loans mechanisms, forced saving, or any other they consider appropriate, including recourse to secondary discount markets.

B. External financing should be of a complementary nature, either as an incentive, such as seed capital, or the temporary correction of deficiencies within the internal market, such as unfavourable balance of payments.

In cases in which external financing is required, it is recommended that it should be directed towards the poorer sectors of the population under conditions that ensure low cost, long term credit.

The Cuban delegation noted the absence of some considerations it had formulated during the meeting.

Regarding housing:

It is recommended to governmental organisations engaged in comprehensive housing planning in the countries of the area that they should accurately define the parameters for socially viable housing, that is, that these countries may provide for themselves on the basis of their own resources with a view toward assisting essentially the majority sectors of the population who have little or no access to conventional financing mechanisms.

Human settlements and housing planning should include "national urban development and housing plans" supported by diagnoses of the socio-economic characteristics of the population requiring assistance, particularly the lower income levels. It is recommended that such comprehensive plans should clearly specify the resources to be allocated in accordance with national priorities. Progressive housing programmes should be promoted that include individual effort, mutual assistance, participation by the people, technical assistance and the granting of credits for building materials.

It is recommended to higher learning institutions and professional schools that they should modify conventional concepts of housing in accordance with the objective of benefitting the low income sectors.

The Cuban delegation formulated a few observations with regard to these recommendations.

Regarding infrastructure, facilities, community services, urban ecology and environmental management:

It is recommended to governments that they should take the necessary measures to coordinate activities with regard to community facilities, infrastructure and environmental management in development plans at different territorial levels and that integral planning should take into account physical, economic and social aspects. It is further recommended that the countries of the region should establish institutions to perform research on human settlements problems, such as those concerning marginalised areas, rural and urban migration, and the development of technologies appropriate to national needs and the availability of resources.

Countries should attempt to reduce external dependence regarding resources for infrastructure works and community facilities and services.

It is recommended to the United Nations Habitat Centre that it should organise a regional centre and whatever sub-regional centres are required on the inter-American level to assume responsibility for research, assistance, training, and the collection and exchange of information required by countries to improve the Latin American and Caribbean habitat.

Ecological aspects should be considered in both public and private investment. The approval of credits or licences for all industrial or engineering projects should be subject to studies aimed at avoiding negative effects on the environment.

SELA MOVES TO COMBAT MALNUTRITION

FL111605Y Georgetown Guyana CHRONICLE in English 5 Jan 79 p 11 FL

[Text] Mexico City--The Latin American Economic System (SELA) has created three action committees in Latin America for combating nutritional deficiencies.

Jaime Moncayo Garcia, SELA's permanent secretary, announced here that the committees were created to combat malnutrition and fluctuations in the production and prices of wheat, corn, beans, rice, soybeans and dairy products, among others. He added that SELA has had the support of some international organisations and has recently signed a technical assistance and financial agreement with the United Nations Development Programme in the building of several such committees.

According to PRENSA LATINA the committees are for organic fertilizer, seeds, fruits and oils, sea and fresh-water products, meat and its by-products and dairy products.

SELA also constituted an action committee on food supplements with high nutritional value, with the participation of three member countries.

Mr. Moncayo Garcia estimated that the status of Latin America within the world economic system cannot continue to be a dependence exclusively on the uncertain result of multilateral negotiations, nor the goodwill of the industrialised countries.

The permanent secretary called for a policy on co-ordination based on the region's own efforts, through which Latin America's participation in the international system can be modified and generate positive answers from the developed countries.

He noted that SELA had recommended the initial application of the new policy in topics related to Latin American foreign trade, since the matters related to this area were of fundamental importance and urgency.

In this field, SELA was trying to design a Latin American mechanism for financial co-operation and payments whose principal aims are:

(1) To put at the disposal of the member states means of payment which increase the reciprocal purchasing capacity of certain products previously selected and regarded as essential for satisfying the basic needs of the population.

(2) To favour the expansion of reciprocal credits between central banks and

(3) To concentrate part of Latin America's international reserves to the region's greatest advantage.

It was also aiming at setting up genuinely regional payment mechanisms which allow the utilisation of existing multilateral payment arrangements due to their security and income-yield capacity, and at the same time, be attractive and accepted as international assets by the member states' financial organisations.

The move will also assist the governments of the region in their negotiations and placing of reserves and of other financial resources, in negotiating loans and placing bonds on the international financial markets, Mr. Moncayo Garcia said.

GROUPS CALL FOR SOLDIERS' RETURN TO BARRACKS

PY111353Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Jan 79 PY

[Text] The various political fronts [words indistinct] have recalled that the government of the late Gen Rene Barrientos Ortuno declared the sectors of national mining to be military zones. Because of that precedent, the political groups insist that the troops should return to their barracks.

The communique containing the reply to the government was read by (Jaime Taborga) of the Quiroga Santa Cruz sector of the Socialist Party yesterday afternoon at the La Paz Department Prefecture to representatives of the various news media.

[Begin (Taborga) recording] The undersigned political fronts, alliances and parties point out that "those zones in which the enterprises and establishments of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL] are located" were declared military zones in Decree No 07531 of 23 May 1965 and the same (?decree says) that "all persons working and living in the military zones are subject to the jurisdiction and rules of the military penal code" for causes [words indistinct] which are enumerated in the same decree and among which are to be found "massive abandonment of our withdrawal from work since this is considered as [words indistinct] harming COMIBOL operations." [end recording]

(Taborga) added that the preamble of the decree reveals that it was aimed at repressing political and labor union activities by declaring the mines military zones. It is asserted in the preamble that, as a consequence of the general strike ordered by the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia, the lives and security of employees and mineworkers were threatened by the subversive attitude of extremists in the mining sectors operated by COMIBOL.

The political parties officially asked for the repeal of that decree, issued in 1965. Regarding the military-peasant pact, the political parties gave the following opinion:

[Begin (Taborga) recording] Regarding the so-called military-peasant pact, the parties recognize the priority right of rural workers to cancel the pact because they are the ones directly affected by that unconstitutional measure. In view of the flagrant unconstitutionality of the so-called military-peasant pact, the parties deny its validity since it is irreconcilable with the democratic conscience of the Bolivian people, even in the case when a peasant congress, guided or manipulated through some political action, may achieve its formal confirmation. [end recording] The parties concluded by expressing their satisfaction that labor leaders have been made eligible without any preliminary requirments.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR OFFERS INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT

PY112007Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Jan 79 PY

[Summary] Soviet Ambassador Boris Kazantsev yesterday visited Energy Minister Mario Candia, to whom he offered Soviet industrial support, particularly through the delivery of machinery for the exploration of energy sources. The ambassador stated that such support to the country would be based on the agreement signed on 11 March 1976. Ambassador Kazantsev also stated that during his latest trip to Potosi, he was able to verify that the work on the La Palca volatilization plant is well advanced and that it might enter the production stage in the first half of this year.

HIGHER TIN PRICES WILL BE SOUGHT AT ITC

PY112029Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1114 GMT 11 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 11 Jan (LATIN)--Official sources have announced that Bolivia will demand a change in the price of tin during the 12th International Tin Council (ITC) to be held in London this month. Experts at the Ministry of Mining and Metallurgy told LATIN that Bolivia, second world producer of this mineral, will demand from the ITC a minimum price of $4.50 and a maximum of $6.00 for a pound of refined tin. The tenth meeting of the organization in July 1978 approved a minimum price of $4.31 and a maximum of $5.43.

Under Secretary of Mining Alvaro Ugalde said Bolivia wants profitable minimum and maximum prices for the country. He indicated that the Bolivian delegation to the ITC meeting in London will be headed by Minister Jorge Echazu. He added that Bolivia will also try to stop the announced U.S. sale of 30,000 tons of its strategic tin reserves controlled by the General [Services] Administration (GSA).

BRIEFS

REPATRIATION OF CITIZENS--Arica, Chile, 11 Jan (LATIN)--The Bolivian military government has decided to repatriate 1,500 Bolivian citizens who live in Arica in northern Chile. The Bolivian Government plans to bring the Bolivians as settlers to the San Julian area, Santa Cruz Department. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2154 GMT 11 Jan 79 PY]

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARY--President David Padilla Arancibia has sworn in Gen Walter Castro Avandano, former defense minister, as the new permanent secretary of the Bolivian National Security Council. [La Paz Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0525 GMT 6 Jan 79 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RESIGNS--Marcelo Ostria Trigo has submitted his irrevocable resignation as Foreign Ministry under secretary. He has recently been severely criticized by political parties for his activities during General Banzer's regime. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 Jan 79 PY]

ARGENTINE GAS DELEGATION--A delegation from the Argentine State Gas Corporation will arrive in Bolivia within the next few days to close an agreement on the sale of 70 million cubic feet of Bolivian natural gas to Argentina. It has been announced in this connection that Argentina is also interested in buying Bolivian petroleum. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Jan 79 PY]

SATELLITE GROUND STATION--The transport minister and other government officials on 24 January will inaugurate a satellite ground station in Villa Salome. The ground station was built at a cost of approximately $5 million and will allow Bolivia direct communications with Spain, Italy, the United States, Argentina, Brazil and other countries. The ground stations will be able to handle 48 channels, for TELEX, telephone and television, with an antenna 32 meters in diameter. The station will be operated by technicians of the Japanese company Mitsubishi. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Jan 79 PY]

NIGERIAN VICE PRESIDENT SEEKS SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION

FY091458Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 9 Jan 79 FY

[Text] At a banquet given for him at Itamaraty last night, Nigerian Vice President Brig Gen S.M. Yar 'Adua [Supreme Chief of Staff] asked Brazil for moral and material support for Africa's total liberation: "With our eyes set on the future, we will accept any material and moral suppor from Brazil for the total liberation of our continent. We are convinced that Brazil's leadership in this geographic area puts it in an advantageous position to to influence future developments in (?this area)."

NEW ACCORDS TO MAKE NIGERIA MAIN TRADE PARTNER

PY111443Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1223 GMT 11 Jan 79 FY

[Text] Brasilia, 10 Jan (LATIN)--Nigeria will become the principal trading partner of Brazil, surpassing Argentina, with $3 billion in commercial exchange expected to be reached within the next 5 years. This information was released here last night by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry after Nigerian Vice President Shemu Musa Yar 'Adua ended his official 3-day visit to this capital, from where he left for Sao Paulo.

The Itamaraty report indicated that "preliminary estimates made on the basis of the projects discussed during the visit of Brigadier General Yar 'Adua placed at about $3 billion the value of commercial exchanges projected over the next 5 years".

The Nigerian vice president and his entourage made contact with several leading figures in Brazil, including the current president, Ernesto Geisel, and his successor, Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo.

The Foreign Ministry stated that the Nigerian delegation held "meaningful talks" with different sectors of the Brazilian economy, in which several proposed joint operations were examined, including banking services, installation of cattle-production facilities, the supply of equipment and machinery for cold-storage plants and telecommunications equipment, factories, engineering projects, port installations, hotels, urban development projects, railways and others.

In the strictly commercial field, they studied the possibility of supplying iron, steel pipe, meat and sugar on the part of Brazil, a country which has demonstrated its willingness "to substantially increase the purchases of Nigerian petroleum as a means of compensation for the anticipated expansion of Brazilian exports," the Foreign Ministry stated in a news release. During the stay of the Nigerian delegation, agreements were also signed for economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries and for "friendship, cooperation and trade." A joint coordination commission between the two governments was also established and an agreement on air services between the two countries was signed.

VISIT DISCUSSED BY NIGERIA'S YAR 'ADUA

PY112017Y Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 11 Jan 79 FY

[Text] At a press conference held in Brasilia, Nigerian Vice President Yar 'Adua termed his visit to Brazil useful and expressed his confidence that Brazil will intensify its relations with African countries under the Figueiredo administration. Yar 'Adua also made it clear that his country has no intention of purchasing arms from Brazil. He noted that he has requested material aid and educational, technical and medical assistance from Brazil because Nigeria lacks professional training.

COMMENTATOR BLAMES ARGENTINE MEDIA FOR POOR RELATIONS

PY112348Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 11 Jan 79 PY

[Rafael Pisainer commentary]

[Excerpts] Praises are pouring in from everywhere for the success of the pope's mediation in the Argentine-Chilean dispute regarding the demarcation of maritime areas in the southern region. Some press commentaries even suggest that this is a revival of the old brilliant Vatican diplomacy so successful in past decades.

Unfortunately, there are already some [word indistinct] Argentine sectors which are throwing small stones [words indistinct] on the demarcation of the sea limits in the southern region. In this [words indistinct] in chronological (?order) we should first mention that the Buenos Aires newspaper LA OPINION, in its Tuesday editorial, published the following paragraph: Chile's recognition of the pope's mediation implies its tacit recognition of the annulment of the British court decision.

This is the theory maintained by the Buenos Aires newspaper LA OPINION. Since this newspaper has been taken over by the Argentine military junta, one may therefore assume that it has some kind of official authority. Since we have begun with this disinformation campaign on the other side, we might add that either they are being dishonest in their interpretation of the agreement or the person who wrote the commentary is illiterate. If this is the case, he should go to school because Point No 8 of Document No 1 signed in Montevideo states in its final part: "To such an end the positions maintained by the parties will be closely taken into account in relation to the Act of Puerto Montt and the tasks emerging from it."

This, ladies and gentlemen, specifically means that neither Argentina nor Chile abandons its positions on claims and rights. In plain words--since it seems one has to be rude to be understood--for Chile, the Beagle dispute is a settled issue. [Words indistinct] it is an obligatory, valid and fulfilled decision. This was a decision made unanimously by the judges requested by Argentina, which chose the British Crown as a mediator. This is an arbitration which Chile won on the basis of the maps and charts Argentina submitted to the court to prove something that there was practically no need to prove--that the territories claimed by Argentina have been Chilean since the time our country became an independent nation, and even before that.

Chile has not accepted the annulment of the British court decision because it would obviously not do so. It has accepted and proposed the pope's mediation in negotiations on the demarcation of maritime areas--which is the only pending issue--because this is a civilized and decent path to settle a dispute between two neighboring countries. As you can see, we are already beginning to have difficulties.

Moreover, the newspaper CONVICCION, also from Buenos Aires, states that peace cannot be achieved without [words indistinct] and that if these insults do not cease after a reasonable appeasing effort, peace cannot be achieved. That is, it is predicting the failure of the papal mediation in the same manner in which Buenos Aires newspapers, led by a LA RAZON, last week predicted the failure of the Samore mission when Cardinal Samore was still in Santiago, Chile. But as you have seen, despite all their predictions, Samore was successful in his attempt to achieve an understanding. Now that both countries have agreed to seek the pope's mediation, we are already confronting difficulties and predictions of failure of the papal mediation.

It is hoped, ladies and gentlemen, that we shall not continue on this path because it is obvious that we will not achieve any agreement in this atmosphere.

The mass media have been the main cause of the deterioration in Argentine-Chilean relations, so much so that on his return from Montevideo, Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos had to admit that it was unfortunate that for the first time in more than 100 years of Chilean-Argentine relations, the note of cordiality and understanding had [words indistinct]. The statements and publications predicting the failure of the papal mediation, speaking of war 3 days after the Montevideo agreement was signed, show that there is a very dishonest trend in Argentina. The [words indistinct] does not contribute to the orderly and logical development of the future talks, and this should clearly show the Argentine people that some sectors of the mass media are taking a nationalistic stand just to increase business.

ECONOMY MINISTER REPORTS ON TRADE WITH PRC

FY120027Y Santiago Chile Radio Nacional de Chile in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jan 79 FY

[Text] Trade with the PRC has increased from $12 million in 1975 to $28.3 million in 1977. Total volume recorded last year is much greater than the previous years. This report was released by Economy Minister Roberto Kelly, who will head a mixed commission which will leave in April for the international fair to be held in Canton.

The latest report on Chilean-PRC trade between January and May 1978 indicated $17 million. The trade balance between the two countries has always been significantly favorable to Chile. The mission headed by Minister Kelly will visit Peking, Suchou, Shanghai and Canton. At this latter city they will visit the spring fair, which has great trade importance in the Far East.

Chile exports to Chinese markets fishmeal, wool, apples, grapes, saltpeter, copper and chemical compounds. China, on the other hand, exports to our country tea, alarm clocks, bandages, dressings, vegetable extracts, cotton, toys and other items. China will soon negotiate with the Constitucion Celulose Company the sale of 20,000 tons of cellulose.

BRIEFS

INFLATION RATE--Santiago, Chile, 3 Jan (LATIN)--According to the Chilean National Statistics Institute, inflation was 30.3 percent during 1978 in Chile. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2323 GMT 3 Jan 79 PY]

BUSINESS WITH BRAZILIAN COMPANY--Santiago, Chile, 3 Jan (LATIN)--The Chilean superintendency of insurance companies and corporations has authorized the Brazilian electrical enterprise Sociedade Brasileira de Electrificacao of Belo Horizonte to establish an agency in Santiago to design and build electrical projects. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0152 GMT 4 Jan 79 Py]

AUTOMOTIVE SPARE PARTS--Santiago, Chile, 10 Jan (LATIN)--The Chilean automotive industry has reported that Brazil has become the main supplier of automotive parts to Chile, replacing Argentina. During the first half of 1978 Argentina supplied 71 percent of Chilean needs, but between July and November 1978 this percentage decreased to 38 percent. According to the Central Bank, Chilean imports of spare parts was $120 million during 1978. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2054 GMT 10 Jan 79 PY]

OIL FROM SEABED--President Pinochet today started the first seabed oil-pumping operations, thus dedicating the program known as (Punta Afuera), which is being implemented by the national petroleum enterprise at the (Opcion) well in Punta Catalina, 160 km northeast of Punta Arenas, at the south end of the Strait of Magellan. It is estimated that this program will yield 30 million cubic meters of oil and 80 million cubic meters of gas. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 8 Jan 79 PY]

FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION ON AP SUSPENSION

PA110438Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Communique issued by the Executive Board of the Foreign Press Association; date not given--read by announcer]

[Text] The Foreign Press Association [APE], a legally organized entity which includes all foreign news media correspondents, informs that after examining the communique issued by the Communications Ministry and other pertinent documents, it expresses its disagreement with the official decision to suspend the activities of the international ASSOCIATED PRESS [AP] news agency in Colombia because it believes that the sanction is contrary to the freedom of information.

The measure appears to be destined to restrict the information which the correspondents send abroad, thereby extending to them the censorship which now exists in Colombia for radio and television broadcasts. Although the government affirms that it has suspended AP for not meeting the legal requirements to operate in the country, it is clear from Resolution 128 of 9 January 1979 that this is a pretext and that the real purpose is to punish it for having disseminated a report which the government considers tendentious and inaccurate.

The APE deplores this decision because so far its correspondents have enjoyed ample freedom of information. The APE recognizes that it is the duty of its members to comply with the law, but it believes that the present case constitutes an act of intimidation which could establish a dangerous precedent for the freedom of the press. Therefore, the APE respectfully requests that the Colombian Government abrogate the sanction imposed upon AP.

[Signed] The Executive Board--Daniel (Sire), Jose Fajardo, [name indistinct], Javier (Baena), Hernando Orozco

GOVERNMENT REITERATES RESPECT FOR PRESS FREEDOM

PA120422Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2033 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 11 Jan (LATIN)--Communications Minister Jose Manuel Arias Carrizosa reiterated today that the Colombian Government will respect the freedom of the press in Colombia.

That is an irreversible decision of President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, Arias Carrizosa said during a conference with members of the Executive Committee of the Foreign Press Association (APE).

The APE committee met at the minister's office to see what could be done on behalf of the U.S. ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) news agency, whose operations in Colombia were suspended 2 days ago for noncompliance with the legal requirements to operate and for disseminating news which was termed biased and inaccurate.

Arias said that the action taken against AP could be revoked once the agency complies with all legal requirements for registration at the ministry and renews the foreign correspondent licenses of its newsmen.

The decree suspending AP's operations was officially delivered today to its director Thomas Wells, a U.S. journalist. According to the law, he has 5 days to appeal. Wells reported today that he had submitted to the ministry all the documents required to legalize his status.

AP offices in Bogota are operating normally, and the receipt and transmission of news has not been interrupted, Wells indicated.

OPPOSITION EXCLUDED FROM ELECTORAL REFORM COMMITTEE

PA112000Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--Opposition leaders vigorously protested today against their exclusion from the committee that will draft the electoral reform and demanded that they be included.

The representatives of the National Opposition Union, the National Popular Alliance, the Movement of the Liberal Left and other opposition groups demanded that they be included in the study of electoral reform so that the rights of minorities could be guaranteed.

The government announced yesterday that the committee would hold its first meeting on Tuesday at the office of Minister German Zea Hernandez in order to begin the study of various proposals presented on the matter and then incorporate them in a single bill which will be submitted to Congress on 27 February.

GOVERNMENT BANNED FROM USING DEBT FOR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

PA112008Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--According to the law on foreign debts, the national government will not be able to acquire any foreign credits to finance operational expenses of government or public institutions. The law also contains other general rules on requirements and procedures concerning credit operations. The foreign debt quota has been increased by $1.7 billion [figure as heard].

BRIEFS

RICE EXPORT TRANSACTIONS--Bogota--Colombia has concluded transactions to export rice to 15 countries during 1979. The countries include Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Libya, Kuwait, Ivory Coast, Central African Empire, Germany [not further identified], France, Chile, Venezuela and countries in the Caribbean area. Official spokesmen said that transactions negotiated thus far amount to 640 million pesos. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Jan 79 PA]

AIR PATROLS--The Colombian Air Force will incorporate into its forces 35 planes of different models which have been confiscated in various operations against the narcotics Mafia. Four large cargo planes have been brought to Madrid Airbase in Bogota from Barranquilla. Half of the 35 planes will be refurbished for patrolling in different areas, and the cargo planes will be used to transport passengers, troops and supplies. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Jan 79 PA]

INCREASED FUEL COSTS--The OPEC oil price increase will cost Colombia $38 million more yearly, a study of the Colombian Association of Petroleum Engineers has shown. The organization noted that Colombia will no longer spend $279 million on fuel, but $317 million to purchase the 22 million barrels it must purchase abroad. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Jan 79 PA]

VACCINATION CAMPAIGN--Colombian Health Minister Alfonso Jaramillo Salazar announced today that Colombia will spearhead a movement against infectious diseases in children in Latin America and will embark upon a widespread vaccination campaign the first Sunday of February to immunize 300,000 children at a cost of 250 million pesos. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Jan 79 PA]

PRESIDENT-ELECT REAFFIRMS NATIONALIZATION PLANS

PA111806Y Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 8 Jan 79 p 1-17 PA

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] During the Luis Herrera Campins administration "actions will be taken that will contribute to the completion of the petroleum industry's nationalization" with the conviction, and the premise, that the steps taken since 1 January 1976 are only the beginning in a process that still has a long way to go.

A plan offering the fundamental guidelines of the incoming administration's petroleum policy points out that "during the next constitutional period programs will be continued, formulated and initiated that will constitute the industry's vital structure and for whose success the fundamental condition is the existence of operative continuity.

The president-elect said: "My administration will guarantee the continuity of plans as a basic condition for industry's sustained development. For this reason I propose to the nation and to political parties a policy of consensus regarding the ideas which I here propose."

"I have offered the country a government of priorities. In this sense I consider that it is fundamental and basic, due to its geopolitical importance and strategic value, to determine the extent of the nation's hydrocarbons resources and our future energy needs so as to formulate a petroleum policy in accordance with Venezuela's realities, framed within an integral energy policy," the president-elect said.

In the international field I propose to carry out a determined effort to strengthen OPEC and our relations with the OPEC countries.

I reiterate to petroleum industry employees what I have said on numerous occasions about keeping the industry apart from party struggles and to continue considering personal merit as the sole guideline to progress within the diverse organizations.

"In order to attain greater efficiency in the petroleum operations I will seek a clear definition of the objectives and functions of the Energy and Mines Ministry, Venezuelan Petroleum, the operating firms, and the Venezuelan Technological Petroleum Institute (INTEVEP). I believe that the Energy and Mines Ministry should set policies and control and oversee the industry's operations. Venezuelan Petroleum should plan, supervise and control activities at the enterprise level. The operating enterprises should undertake the work which falls in their respective fields and the Venezuelan Technological Petroleum Institute should formulate and carry out the needed research projects.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO INVESTIGATED

PA112216Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1718 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 11 Jan (AFP)--Venezuelan Ambassador Abdelkader Marquez announced here today that the Caracas government is investigating two incidents which took place between the Venezuelan National Guard and citizens from Trinidad and Tobago in the Gulf of Paria. The National Guard detained for 1 hour the five crew-members of a boat who had been operating an oil-drilling platform off the coast of the southwestern peninsula of Trinidad and Tobago. According to the crewmembers, the Venezuelan guardsmen had claimed that both the boat and the platform were in Venezuelan waters.

In the meantime, 15 fishermen also said that they had been "disturbed" by the [Venezuelan] National Guard while in the same area where the other incident occurred--between the Trinidad and Tobago peninsula of Los Cedros and the Venezuelan coast.

Trinidad and Tobago Petroleum and Mines Minister Errol Mahabir announced this morning that he has turned over a report on the incident involving the oil platform to the national security minister, who will conduct a thorough investigation into the incident.

The platform is located near Soldado Rock, in the Trinidad and Tobago area, and is operated by Trinmar, a company controlled by the Trinidad and Tobago Government in association with the U.S. Texaco and Tesoro companies.

Company and government spokesmen have refused to provide details on the incident, the first one in which the [Venezuelan] National Guard has disturbed a Trinidad and Tobago drilling platform.

EL UNIVERSAL COLUMNIST ANALYZES 1979 BUDGET

PA120041Y Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 8 Jan 79 p 2-2 PA

[From the "Siete Dias en Accion" column by C. R. Chavez: "The Millions for the Budget"]

[Text] The sixth substantial national budget following the increase in oil prices, the benefits of which have been received since the beginning of 1974, is the one which has been in effect since 1 January 1979. Although it is not the largest budget we have had, it is in fact one of the largest. It amounts to 46.541 billion bolivares, of which 39.946 billion will come from ordinary sources and 6.595 billion from special sources. It is estimated that during the first 70 days of 1979, the government of President Carlos Andres Perez (1 January to 12 March) will use from 8 to 9 billion bolivares, leaving Herrera Campins' administration approximately 38 billion bolivares for the remaining 295 days of the year.

Expenditures for 1979 have been classified more or less as follows: 1) for departments and state administrative services, 5,369,500,000 bolivares (11.6 percent); 2) for hydrocarbons and mining, 162,000,000 (0.3 percent); 3) for agriculture, 3,469,700,000 (7.5 percent); 4) for industries, 4,554,300,000 (9.8 percent); 5) for education, culture, science and technology, 8,792,400,000 (19.0 percent); 6) for health and social security, 4,566,600,000 (9.9 percent); 7) for defense and legal insurance, 784,000,000 (1.7 percent); 8) for transportation and communications, 3,043,600,000 (6.5 percent); 9) for city planning and development, 847,700,000 (1.8 percent); 10) for information and tourism, 259,200,000 (0.6 percent) and 11) for other expenditures, 14,485,800,000 (31.3 percent, of which 6,887,200,000 (14.9 percent) is assigned to regional agencies and 7,598,600,000 (16.4 percent) for the public debt, the administration's debt and contracts of an ordinary nature.

Of the total amount of expenditures, 56.9 percent--that is, 26,360,000,000 bolivares--are for current expenses; 26.9 percent--that, is 12,475,500,000 bolivares--are to finance investments; and 16.2 percent--that, is 7,527,700,000 bolivares--are to finance the servicing of the public debt.

Among current expenses, approximately 12.6 billion bolivares (47 percent) of the total will be used for expenses in the sectors of health, social security, education, culture, science and technology, which is proof of the high burden that the state's social expenditures represent for current expenses. On the other hand, it is also very important to point out that the transfers to regional agencies based on the concept of nonallocated expenses represent more than 7 percent of the total amount of current expenses, while the contribution to decentralized service agencies is more than 9 percent.

In summary, the millions for the nation's budget for 1979 have been approved by Congress, and the changes that the new government will be able to make to the budget will be few or perhaps none, inasmuch as the disbursements for current expenses and investment have been made in accordance with the plan submitted by the government of President Perez and, therefore, with what the government thought would be the outlook in facts and possibilities for 1979....

BRIEFS

VENEZUELAN-COLOMBIAN INTEGRATION--Colombia and Venezuela have resumed the construction of a sugar central in Cucuta. It should be able to process 720,000 tons of sugarcane per year, said Colombian Ambassador for Integration Programs Eduardo Gaitan Duran. This is the second stage of the complex being built at a cost of some $110 million. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 10 Jan 79 PA]

NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES--Over 5,000 new jobs will be created by the 320 new concerns inscribed in the industrial register at the Development Ministry between August and November 1978, according to a ministry source. He added that the new concerns will invest some 425 million bolivares. The concerns will be installed in various parts of the country. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 10 Jan 79 PA]

FOREIGNERS' VOTE--Caracas--The Supreme Electoral Council's regional delegate, Joseph Walters, has announced that all foreigners with 10 years' residence in the country may vote in the 3 June municipal elections. [Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 10 Jan 79 PA]

GOVERNMENT TO DESIGN, BUILD ITS OWN NUCLEAR REACTORS

FL112006Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1913 GMT 11 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Jan (INFORMEX)--Mexico will design and facilitate the production of its own nuclear reactors through a program that includes building 13 units which will use uranium from our deposits and will generate 8,450 megawatts.

The announcement was made by the National Insititute of Nuclear Energy [INEN] when it was learned that the Chamber of Deputies had approved Section IV, Aritcle 30 of the statutory law in accordance with constitutional Article 27 on nuclear energy.

Likewise, it was announced at the INEN that the same section also states that, with respect to the generation of electricity, the institute will advise the Federal Commission on Electricity on the design, development of engineering and contracting for the production of the nuclear reactors, which will be the property of said commission.

HAVANA RADIO SAYS CANADA TO SELL REACTORS TO MEXICO

FL112123Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2108 GMT 11 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Canada is planning to sell Candu nuclear reactors to Mexico in exchange for Mexican crude oil beginning in 1980, it has been officially announced in Ottawa.

An official delegation headed by Canadian Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie has gone to Mexico to begin negotiations with officials of the Mexican Government and the state enterprise Mexican Petroleum--PEMEX.

A Candu nuclear reactor costs about $1 billion and probably will be negotiated for the equivalent of an entire year of Mexican oil supplies at the rate of 150,000 barrels daily. Alastair Gillespie has expressed pessimism over the uncertainty of the Mideast oil supply and added that he wants to improve the status of imported reserves.

GEPLACEA REPORTS ON SUGAR PRODUCTION, SURPLUS

FL112119Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2104 GMT 11 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The economic Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries--GEPLACEA--has declared in Mexico City that world sugar production from the current harvest will be 91.787 million tons. At the end of a 3-day meeting of the standing committee of marketing and statistics experts, it was announced that the estimated world sugar surplus this year is 1.156 million tons, a figure that is much less than last year's surplus.

The experts said that the instability of the dollar, the delay of the United States in ratifying the new international sugar agreement and the protectionist policy of the European Community continue distorting the market and preventing a fair sugar price. At the meeting, the GEPLACEA member countries reaffirmed their support for the international sugar agreements.

PRESIDENT ROYO MEETS WITH VISITING U.S. OFFICIALS

PA111911Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Panama City--President Dr Aristides Royo met today with U.S. Ambassador on a Special Mission David Popper and Lt Gen Melborn Dolvin, representatives of the U.S. Government, to discuss matters related to preparations for the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The Panamanian chief of state and the U.S. officials exchanged views on the transfer of the interoceanic waterway to Panamanian administration and jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions of the treaties.

The Torrijos-Carter treaties will go into effect on 1 October 1979 and immediately afterward several installations and areas will be turned over to the Panamanian Government.

ROYO SPEAKS ON ATLANTIC SECTOR OF CANAL ZONE

PA120414Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Report by Televisora Nacional reporter Luz Noli]

[Text] President Aristides Royo said exclusively for this station tonight that the first official visit of the president and vice president to the Atlantic sector of the Panama Canal Zone has a two-fold importance: First, he said, because in this stage of the implementation of the treaties we are creating the image that we are entering the zone, the image that we planned this entry. The president said that we, referring to his administration, have created a canal commission in the Atlantic sector which is already working on this plan.

The president added that this first visit to the Atlantic sector of the Panama Canal Zone represents the image of good will which exists between our country and the United States. President Royo and Vice President De la Espriella's visit to the Atlantic sector of the canal lasted 2 hours and 20 minutes and was part of the activities planned on this first day of the presidential visit to Colon Province.

As we reported in our 1730 newscast today, President Royo met with the representative groups of Colon this morning. However, he did not meet with business and professional sectors. On this omission, due to a lack of time, President Royo told this station that he had already met with the businessmen on his last visit and that there would be other opportunities in the future. However, he attached great importance (?to his talks) with the labor sector, which was energetic, just as the government's position was energetic.

It is evident that the highlight of the 2-day presidential visit to Colon will come tomorrow when Royo presents the outlines for the integral development of Colon Province. This is a document which includes short- and medium-term solutions for all sectors: commerce, telecommunications, housing and others. On this proposal, which will be made in Colon tomorrow, Royo told this station that the government will say either yes or no to whether it can or cannot perform in order not to create false hopes. He said that we have to accustom the people to feeling secure with their rulers and to the fact that it is preferable that the rulers be criticized for not performing rather than be applauded because the people think that we are going to perform and then not be able to perform.

After making these statements, Royo met for a short time with the former governor of the State of Florida and afterward greeted Msgr Jesus Serrano at the Colon cathedral. During his visit to the Claretian priests, in which Pauline priests also participated, they discussed problems of the Catholic Church, the priests and Colon. President Royo told the Claretian priests that Colon's unemployment problem will not be solved in 1 day or 1 year, or perhaps even in 6 years, and that the government is trying to encourage private capital to invest and is working hard in this direction.

Perhaps the most important part of President Royo's visit to the Catholic priests was the warning he sent to the faithful about those groups which use the name of God to defend what the president described as obscure political interests. Evidently, Royo was referring not only to the political groups, but also to those religious groups which, in the name of God, are acquiring a large following of persons whose prayers often smack of fanaticism.

CANAL DIRECTOR GENERAL ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICIALS

PA1117500Y Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 11 Jan 79 pp 1, 7 PA

[Text] Gabriel Lewis Galindo, director general of the Panama Canal Authority, disclosed Monday the names of several newly appointed officials and advisors in the organization during his first working session with the authority's Executive Committee.

He also presented for the committee's consideration and approval a series of projects to be undertaken immediately.

The Executive Committee, working jointly with the director general and his deputy, administer the Panama Canal Authority.

Appointed deputy director is Dr Eduardo Tejeira, a chemical engineer from the University of Notre Dame, who also holds a doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Tennessee.

Prior to his appointment, Tejeira was director general of Cemento Bayano, and before that, general manager of the National Finance Corporation (COFINA) and deputy minister of commerce and industries.

Appointed advisor to the director general is Fernando Manfredo Jr, former minister of commerce, minister of the presidency, treaty negotiator and member of the National Commission.

Also appointed an advisor is Roberto Heurtematte, former ambassador to Washington, director of the United Nations' Development Program and comptroller general of the republic.

Jose M. Cabrera J. has been appointed legal advisor. He is a graduate in law at the University of Barcelona, Spain, a former Ministry of Commerce official and a member of the subcommittee on business activities for the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaty.

Liaison director is Dr Flavio Velasquez, a distinguished economist and connected since 1973 with the treaty negotiations as economic advisor to the Foreign Ministry.

Named administrative director is Jorge Marengo, a specialist in public administration and a former official of the Planning Ministry.

Director of finance is Jose G. Gonzalez, with a masters in business administration from the University of Pennsylvania. He worked with the Panama Canal Comptroller's Department for many years.

Augusto Zambrano R. is director of operations. A graduate of Michigan State University, Zambrano was an official of the Ministry of Planning during the past four years and was connected with the treaty negotiations as land, water and administration technician.

Tomas Paredes R. is the projects director. He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University, majoring in industrial engineering, and took post graduate courses in project planning and evaluation at the University of Bradford, England. Up until his appointment, he was professor of engineering at the University of Panama and finance manager for the National Finance Corporation (COFINA).

Appointed personal advisor to the director general for special matters is Ricardo Rodriguez, who will continue in his present job as presidential advisor.

Heading the regional office in Colon is Nilson Espino.

Attending the meeting as members of the executive committee were Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores T., Planning Minister Gustavo Gonzalez, Fernando Aramburo P. of the Finance Ministry, Lt Col Armando Contreras of the National Guard's G-3 Department, Lt Col Armando Bellido of the National Guard's G-4 Department, Edwin Fabrega as legal advisor of the committee, and Director General Gabriel Lewis Galindo.

Some of the projects presented for consideration included:

--The commercializing of the dry docks located at Balboa.

--Access facilities to Ancon Hill and the erection there of a monument to Panamanian poet Amelia Denis de Icaza.

--Modernization of the railroad and Cristobal port.

--The construction of a metropolitan park, to be located in the Tumba Muerto area.

PANAMENIST COMMUNIQUE: PARTY WILL NOT REGISTER

PA111205Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Jan 79 PA

[From the "Comentarios y Opiniones del Profesor Don Lucho" program]

[Text] We have learned from a communique to the citizens issued by the Panamenist Party that it, just like the Liberal Party, is not going to participate in the process of party registration. Also, the Christian Democratic Party maintains the position that the opposition parties must form a union.

BRIEFS

TAX REFORM COMMITTEE INSTALLED--President Aristides Royo today swore in the members of the Income Tax Reform Committee. They are: Finance and Treasury Minister Ernesto Perez Balladares, Menalco Solis, Carlos Velarde, Hector Spencer, Eduardo Morgan Jr, Arturo Hoyos, Roberto Garcia de Paredes, Miguel Brostella, Joaquin J. Vallarino, Osvaldo Maduro, Edmundo White and Eric Peng. The committee's main duty is to make recommendations for improving the income tax system. The committee members will serve for a period of 12 months. They will receive no salary. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA]

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT URGES AGENCIES TO PURSUE AUSTERITY POLICY

PA111352Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] President Rodrigo Carazo has asked the heads of independent government agencies to apply the government's austerity policy. He sent a memorandum to the heads of independent agencies asking them to apply austerity policies, adding: I have deep respect for the autonomy of institutions and their notable efforts to contribute to the welfare of the country within their sphere of action. As president of the republic I take the liberty of suggesting respectfully that you join us in this national effort so that austerity will be the norm in these years.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES NEW CONSUMER GOODS PRICE LIST

PA120358Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The government has decreed a large number of increases in consumer goods. The new prices suddenly appeared overnight, without the people being informed. Prices increased for coffee, lard, oil, fuels, condensed milk, margarine, light bulbs, colored pencils and other items. Now we have to think twice before taking a bath or brushing our teeth. The wholesale price for 1/2-kg bag of coffee increased from 4.85 to 6.50 colones, but the retail price increased from 5.45 to 7.25 colones; that is, 1.70 colones for 1/2 kilo and 3.30 colones per kilo for the consumer. [figures as heard] A cup of coffee has increased from 1 to 1.25 colones at second class coffee shops and to 1.50 colones at first class coffee shops.

A small can of Nestle condensed milk increased from 1.35 to 1.75 colones; the Dutch Baby can increased from 1.25 to 1.35 colones; the Corona de Oro can increased from 1.30 to 1.55 colones. African palm oil also increased. A kilo costs 3.65 colones. Formerly it cost 3.20 colones. It has increased 45 cents. Lard also increased in price. A bag weighing 460 grams used to cost 3 colones. It now costs 3.35 colones. A 500-gram bag used to cost 3.25 colones. It now costs 3.65 colones. Another article that increased was light bulbs. We must now use candles. The 60-watt bulbs increased from 3.85 to 4.15 colones. The 60- to 100-watt light bulbs increased from 4.35 to 4.60 colones. There is no price increase for staple goods. [sentence as heard] The last price list was published 2 years ago, in February 1977. The price control inspectors could not operate because they lacked a price list. In this regard the economy minister [Fernando Altmann Ortiz] said the following:

[Begin recording] It is not true. In the first place, the last price list was published 2 years ago. The prices on the new list are the ones that have been in effect for several months. The ministry has had to work with little information in this regard because the list has not been kept current. The inspectors had a difficult time working without an updated list, and the ministry proceeded to publish a list, as demanded by law. [passage indistinct] Now any request for price increases will be refused, as promised by the president. [end recording]

BRIEFS

REFORESTATION PLANS--According to recent studies, there are only 8,000 hectares of forests left in Costa Rica. The Costa Rican Government announced a new reforestation program today providing financing for a 15-year term with a 6-year grace period and an annual interest rate of 8 percent. The Inter-American Development Bank will contribute $25 million to finance the reforestation program. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA]

EL SALVADOR

GROUPS DENOUNCE TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

PA111400Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] In San Salvador, religious and civilian groups have denounced the torture and abuses to which dozens of political prisoners are being subjected. They have also deplored the fact that many persons arrested for alleged violations of the Law of Defense and Protection of Public Order are missing.

The San Salvador archbishopric distributed in San Salvador and abroad a document containing a ghastly account filled with details of torture inflicted by police agents upon a man who barely escaped being killed by dynamite. The document specifies that before releasing the report on torture, many details were checked out confirming the cruel and inhuman treatment given political prisoners in El Salvador.

NEW APPOINTMENTS--Col Oscar Roque Molina was appointed director general of civil aeronautics and Vladimir P. Villalta has been named director general of land transportation. The two new officials were sworn in yesterday by Economy Minister Roberto Ortiz Avalos. [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 4 Jan 79 pp 3, 15 PA]

GUATEMALA

PRESIDENT ORDERS SOLUTION TO COOKING OIL SHORTAGE

PA120316Y Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] President Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia said today that he had given precise instructions to the economy and agriculture ministries to solve, as soon as possible, the problem of the shortage of cooking oil in Guatemala. Government sources said that the president is aware of the problem faced by consumers due to the shortage of cooking oil and today gave instructions to the ministers already mentioned as well as to the Government Ministry to see that the product is not surreptitiously sent abroad.

Borders Closed

PA120317Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala--The borders with Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador were closed today as a protective measure to prevent the smuggling of large amounts of cooking oil which has caused scarcities and local price increases. The information was released by Agriculture Minister Edgar Ponciano, who said that the measures was ordered by President Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia.

The minister added that the producing industries have expressed their agreement with the measure and have offered their cooperation to keep domestic prices at a steady level.

HONDURAS

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS REMOVED FROM ELECTORAL TRIBUNALS

PA112130Y San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Jan 79 p 2 PA

[Circular No 1 sent by Virgilio R. Galvez, National Elections Tribunal president, to the national departmental tribunals; dated 2 January 1979]

[Text] Departmental tribunals throughout the country:

Last 31 December marked the first anniversary of the Electoral and Political Organizations Law, and the Honduran Christian Democratic Party was not able to obtain its registration before that date. Therefore, according to Articles 233 and 234 of said law, the Electoral Tribunal members appointed by the Honduran Christian Democratic Party will no longer belong to those organizations until this tribunal rules on the Honduran Christian Democratic Party's registration, which will be after the Supreme Court of Justice makes a decision on an injunction. All outgoing members must turn in their identification cards. Those tribunals in which a member of this party serves as president or secretary will immediately hold a new election. In line with the foregoing, the electoral tribunals will be composed of members appointed by three political parties, and therefore the duties of all additional members will be terminated.

Support personnel will remain in office in line with a circular contained in telegrams Nos 3816 and 3817 of 4 December as long as they fulfill their duties to the satisfaction of the tribunal. Notify that you have complied with this circular.

Respectfully yours,

Virgilio R. Galvez Madrid, National Elections Tribunal president

CAMPAIGN PROPOSED TO WIPE OUT PLANTAIN DISEASE

PA111500Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0013 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Honduran Natural Resources Minister Rafael Leonardo Callejas on Tuesday declared "war against black sigatoka" in northern Honduras. The disease has practically eliminated plantain cultivation in the northern Yoro Department due to the government's delay in responding to farmers' demands for assistance.

Callejas offered the growers $3.5 million dollars to fight the disease. The money is financed by the central government and the Central American Economic Integration Bank (BCIE). The first step will be to spray 4,000 of the 10,000 hectares affected by black sigatoka in the hope that the disease will be eliminated in 2 years. Farmers will be provided financing and technical assistance to increase production. Callejas also promised to establish a commission to obtain the best prices for Honduran plantains in international markets, prices which were obtained up until 4 years ago.

BRIEFS

SUGAR PRODUCTION--The director general of interior trade reports that national production of sugar for the 1978-79 harvest totaled 4.3 million quintals. Some 2.4 million quintals were used for domestic consumption while 1,890,500 tons of sugar were exported. [San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Dec 78 p 20 PA]

NICARAGUA

NORMAL SITUATION REPORTED ON COSTA RICAN BORDER

PA111937Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] A relatively normal situation continues to prevail on the southern border, which has been the site of tension due to recent armed incidents in the region.

The Sapoa command, very near the border with Costa Rica, today reported that the border is open and the transit of vehicles and persons through the border post continues normally.

Two days ago the government seemed to be ready to once again close the border due to sporadic attacks, but the tension has decreased in the past few hours.

COSTA RICAN RADIO REPORTS ON CHAMORRO MARCH

PA111344Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] In Managua about 50,000 persons went yesterday to the tomb of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro on the first anniversary of his murder. The Red Cross reported that seven persons were wounded in ensuing clashes with the National Guard. Spokesmen for the Red Cross said five persons were wounded in a shooting incident 3 km from the municipal cemetery where a ceremony was held in memory of the murdered newsman. Two more persons were wounded five blocks from the cemetery along the route taken by the procession from the Sacred Heart Church to the cemetery.

However, by nightfall all was calm. The only persons in the streets were heavily armed National Guard contingents who patrolled the city in jeeps.

The National Guard took repressive action against demonstrators yesterday in several Nicaraguan cities. In Leon, a group renaming (Faja Willian) Street as "Martyrs' Street" was dispersed by the National Guard. In Granada, at the end of a mass in memory of Chamorro, the National Guard did not permit those attending to leave the church. In Rivas, the National Guard fired shots and teargas grenades at the end of another mass.

In the meantime, unrest continues at the border close to the Costa Rican frontier. A clash occurred between the National Guard and the Sandinists and the border was closed at 1545 [local time]. The clash lasted about 15 minutes and was very close to the border. Nicaraguan authorities immediately closed the border to vehicular traffic. Heavy arms, mortars and machineguns were used in the shooting. No casualties have been reported.

Costa Rica has decided to send public security forces to Los Chiles and Upala for a new cleanup operation. It was also said that they will be trying to locate three alleged Sandinist guerrillas who are believed to be implicated in the first homicide in Las Delicias de Upala. There was a second murder, but nothing is known about it. Possibly another person was also killed as a peasant residing in the area has been reported missing for several weeks. But it is not known if there is any connection between the first and second homicides.

In Managua, the commander of the Nicaraguan forces stationed at the border with Costa Rica denied that a clash took place between the National Guard and the Sandinist National Liberation Forces. However, Radio Reloj of San Jose reported that at 1600 yesterday, a violent clash occurred between Sandinists and Nicaraguan soldiers at Penas Blancas.

Further Details on Demonstration

PA111708Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0850 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[By Agustin Fuentes]

[Excerpts] Managua, 11 Jan (LATIN)--Managua seemed like a ghost town last night. Its streets were deserted except for heavily armed National Guard patrols following a day of mass demonstrations in commemoration of the first anniversary of the assassination of opposition newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. The Red Cross and news correspondents reported that there were no violent incidents during the demonstrations as had been feared except for five persons injured in Managua and the destruction of property in Bluefields. In Bluefields, an Atlantic coast city located a considerable distance from Managua, groups of demonstrators destroyed the new Telegraph and Post Office (TELCOR) installations, radio stations reported. The doors and windows of the residence of a Somozist leader indentified as Harvey Mayorga were also damaged. The demonstrators fled before the National Guard arrived. There were no reports of arrests of injured persons. The demonstration in Managua, headed by Chamorro's widow, Violeta Barrios, was attended by all sectors of the opposition, from the extreme left represented by youths of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) to the right, represented by the Conservative Party.

The Sandinist youths, who for the first time marched in public and in large numbers, covered their faces with handkerchieves and carried red and black banners, most of them inscribed with the words, "Proletarian Sandinist Front." At the Managua cemetery the demonstrators divided into two groups which clearly indicated the two factions which currently control the anti-Somozist opposition. One gathered around Chamorro's grave to hear the speakers of the organized opposition parties. The other noisier and larger group gathered at the cemetery's entrance where the FSLN youths publicly explained their ideology and their plan "to continue the armed struggle until the overthrow of the Somozist system." At the end of the time set in the legal permit for the demonstration (1730), the organizers concluded the posthumous homage to Chamorro and asked the participants to peacefully return to their homes. The Sandinist youths instead issued a call to "go into the streets." This led to a demonstration that was very soon broken up by police patrols which had been posted nearby.

Opposition leaders, including Alfonso Robelo Callejas, told LATIN that the result of the commemoration "is the total unity of the opposition in 1979 considering that the diplomatic mediation sponsored by the OAS has clearly failed. [Quotation marks as received] Robelo, who was one of the negotiators of the Broad Opposition Front (FAO) in the talks with the mediation commission which spent the last 3 months of 1978 in Nicaragua, added that "solution by plebiscite or popular consultation proposed by the mediators has been discarded." "What is now left is the unity of the opposition to continue the struggle, under any banner, whether it be that of the FAO or the Patriotic Front (FP)," the leader emphasized. He indicated that he personally supports the immediate beginning of talks to strengthen the Patriotic Front. The FP was proposed by the Group of 12 and has the support of the United People's Movement (which includes leftist labor, student and peasant organizations). It has also been supported in recent manifestos by the three FSLN factions: Prolonged People's War, Tertiary and Proletarian.

MILITARY PATROL THWARTS SANDINIST ATTACK IN LEON

PA111959Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1635 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 11 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--A guerrilla operation called "No more foreign exchange for the Somoza government" was thwarted by a military patrol in Leon Department, in western Nicaragua. The military patrol killed one guerrilla and captured four members of a Sandinist brigade.

The National Guard authorities today reported that about 10 armed youths arrived yesterday at La Grecia Farm, located on the road between the cities of Leon and Chinandega, and tried to set fire to several bales of cotton and destroy farm machinery. The patrol's action prevented the subversive action, the military sources reported. When the soldiers arrived at the farm they were met with fire from submachineguns and other weapons. One of the rebels, identified only as "Ernesto" was killed in the clash. The military patrol captured the brothers Marvin and Gerardo Meza, as well as Lorenzo Quiroz and Carlos Balladares. The rest of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) group, which included Juan Jose Berrios and Pedro Balladares, was able to escape.

Early this week, some 20 Sandinists attacked La Castilla Ranch in the same western area of the country. Acting with the same objective of economically harming President Anastasio Somoza's regime, which they are trying to overthrow, they seized various weapons and destroyed tractors, trailers and a cotton harvester. Previously, the FSLN instigated a fire in an important coffee-processing center in Managua's rural area.

Almost simultaneously with the action carried out in La Grecia, another Sandinist group assaulted El Limon Mine where, after urging the workers to support the FSLN's revolutionary struggle, they seized weapons and a vehicle.

In a communique, the "insurrectional" faction of the FSLN, which operates in northern Nicaragua, reported on other operations it carried out in November and December. It admitted that 11 of its members were killed in various parts of the country. Among those killed in the north it mentioned Oscar Ruiz Molina, Noel Montiel, Pastor Castillo and Santos Rodriguez Baquedano. The communique also said that six Nicaraguan Air Force (FAN) airplanes and two helicopters have been bombing the northwestern region of Esteli Department where the FSLN columns operate.

The Carlos Fonseca Amador Northern Front said it inflicted 17 casualties on the ranks of the Nicaraguan Army. The Sandinist Front also took credit for an attack on the electric powerplant in the city of Masaya, where it said it killed five soldiers who were guarding the plant.

POSSIBLE FORMATION OF NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FRONT REPORTED

PA111901Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Alfonso Robelo has returned to Nicaragua from the United States and announced that he was rejecting the mediation commission's proposal in advance. He told Radio Corporation that the negotiations were broken off.

It is now very possible that the Democratic Union will leave the Broad Opposition Front [FAO] and join the United People's Movement to form the National Patriotic Front, which is being organized in Nicaragua and which in the course of a few weeks has gained much ground.

FAO MEETING ON UNITY SLATED FOR 11 JANUARY

PA111912Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The Broad Opposition Front [FAO] will hold a meeting at 1500 today at the offices of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement. The main subject to be discussed is the possibility of unity in the organization of the National Patriotic Front.

During the meeting, Alfonso Robelo Callejas and Adolfo Calero Portocarrero will issue reports on their personal trips abroad. They will give the latest details on the mediation and the opposition's image abroad.

FIDEL CASTRO CONGRATULATES NEW KAMPUCHEAN GOVERNMENT

FL111221Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has sent a message to Heng Samrin, chairman of the Kampuchean National United Front and the People's Revolutionary Council of that country. In the name of the Cuban party, government and people, states the note, we congratulate you for the great revolutionary victory of the fraternal people of Kampuchea which, led by the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation, put an end to a barbaric, tyrannical and traitorous regime and opened the path to democracy, peace, true independence, liberty and advancement towards socialism. Fidel concludes by stating that we congratulate the creation of the People's Revolutionary Council, and we are sure that this new Kampuchean Government will strengthen friendship and cooperation relations between our two countries in the common struggle for the revolutionary ideals which unite us.

MALMIERCA SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO KAMPUCHEAN REGIME

FL111124Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Jan 79 FL

[Text] A message of congratulations on the great victory of the Kampuchean people was sent by Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban foreign minister, to Hun Sen, commissar of the council in charge of that country's foreign relations. The message transmits the decision to reopen the Cuban Embassy in Phnom Penh as an expression of support from our government and people to the Kampuchean people. The Cuban foreign minister's letter also congratulates the People's Revolutionary Council constitution and calls it a deed which opens the path to peace, true independence and progress.

CUBAN-VENEZUELAN FRIENDSHIP INSTITUTE FORMS NEW BODY

FL111419Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1333 GMT 11 Jan 79 FL

[Text] In concluding an assembly meeting of the Venezuelan-Cuban Friendship Institute, the organization's Consultative Council has been established in Caracas. The structure of the institute's Consultative Council was set up at the meeting, and has as its basic objective that of strengthening the work that is being carried out to expand the ties of friendship between the peoples of Cuba and Venezuela. They also moved to create new Venezuelan-Cuban Friendship Institute branches. Branches already exist in seven cities in that South American nation--Caracas, Maracay, Barquisimeto, Cumana, Maracaibo, Valencia and Merida. The Consultative Council, which was unanimously approved by all those present, is made up of Lt Col (Juan de Dios Moncada Vidal) as president, (Leni Molina) as secretary, and (Alfredo Saleno), (Jose Lino Salazar) and others as members.

HART, CULTURE DELEGATION CONTINUE HUNGARY VISIT

Hart Received by Aczel

FL120032Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and Cuban minister of culture, has been received in Budapest, the Hungarian capital, by Gyorgy Aczel, member of the Politburo of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. Armando Hart is in Hungary at the head of a Culture Ministry delegation that is participating in the week of Cuban culture which began in Budapest last Tuesday.

The meeting was held in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere. The Cuban delegation that is accompanying Hart Davalos and Cuban Ambassador to Hungary Jose Antonio Tabares del Real attended the meeting.

Cuban Cultural Exhibition Opens

FL111338Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1244 GMT 11 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Armando Hart, minister of culture and member of the PCC Politburo, has presided over the inauguration of a plastic arts exhibit as part of the Cuban culture event in Hungary. The exhibit opened in the museum of the Hungarian workers movement, in the former royal palace in Budapest. Hungarian Culture Minister Imre Pozsgay also attended the event. The show covers more than 40 works of young Cuban painters who were trained following the triumph of the revolution and who are graduates of the National Art School and students of the Cuban Higher Institute of Art. The Cuban culture event includes musical performances and a book, record and handicrafts show in addition to a movie week program which was also inaugurated with the attendance of Culture Minister Armando Hart.

SPANISH LEGISLATORS, LABOR LEADERS VISIT CTC

FL120138Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Members of the National Secretariat of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) and four senators and several labor leaders from Spain who are visiting our country have had a friendly meeting at CTC headquarters. Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Central Committee and secretary general of the CTC, chaired the meeting. Comrade Francisco Travieso, member of the CTC National Secretariat, explained in detail the characteristics of the labor movement in our country. The four senators and the group of Spanish labor leaders asked many questions on matters of interest to them concerning our labor organization and about its composition and organizational structure.

RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES BRITISH PARLIAMENTARIANS

FL120023Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received a delegation of British parliamentarians who are visiting our country. The delegation is headed by Stan Neves and includes (Martin Plerett), Richard Lewis and Malcolm Hickey. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, and there was an exchange of viewpoints on the most important aspects of international issues.

MILIAN CASTRO PRESIDES OVER TUBER REVIEW MEETING

FL111134Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Arnaldo Milian Castro, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, has presided over the meeting in Ciego de Avila commemorating the fourth anniversary of campaign "Revolution" for higher yields in tubers and vegetables. Others attending included members of the Central Committee Diocles Torralba, vice president of the Council of Ministers; Rafael Francia Mestre, minister of agriculture; and Jose Ramirez Cruz, president of the National Association of Small Farmers. Ciego de Avila Province was chosen as the site of the event for having placed first in 1978 among provinces which had set goals by achieving 300 pounds of tubers per year per capita. It surpassed its goal by 1,459,000 quintales of this product.

NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE MEETING OPENS

FL111930Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1903 GMT 11 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The second scientific conference of the Cuban Nuclear Research Institute has opened at Camilo Cienfuegos Hall of the Academy of Sciences in Havana City with the attendance of delegations from the GDR and USSR state committees for nuclear energy. The conference, which will continue until this Saturday, is being held in tribute to the 20th anniversary of the revolution and the 10th anniversary of the founding of the institute.

Prof Guenter Flach, director of the GDR Academy of Sciences' Nuclear Research Institute, at this morning's session lectured on the influence of nuclear research results on mastering technological processes. This afternoon, five committees will begin to develop the work program for the 3-day meeting.

MATANZAS PROVINCE ATTORNEY GENERAL SWORN IN

FL111324Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1241 GMT 11 Jan 79 FL

[Text] At the event held in White Hall in the city of Matanzas, the new attorney general of the province, (Amador Losano Garcia), was sworn in to his new position. The event was presided over by Julian Rizo, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the PCC in Matanzas [Province], and Dr Santiago Cubas, attorney general of the republic. Luis Rodriguez Hernandez, second secretary of the party in Matanzas Province, spoke.

Dr Cubas stated that naming the attorney general of Matanzas concludes the process of designating attornies general in all provinces of the country as was established by the law organizing the judicial system. For his part Luis Rodriguez Hernandez stated that with the support of the Attorney General's Office they can seek to establish social and administrative discipline in Matanzas Province.

RADIO HAVANA TERMS LETELIER TRIAL 'GREAT FARCE'

PA120311Y Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] A trial which can only be described as a great farce began in Washington on Tuesday. It is the trial being held against three of the perpetrators of the dynamite attack which in September 1976 killed former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his secretary, U.S. citizen Ronni Moffit, in Washington.

The trial, in which all the arbitrary things that characterize U.S. justice are being made manifest, is taking place 2 years and 4 months after the crime was perpetrated, even though the assassins could have been discovered, tried and sentenced a few weeks after the assassination took place if in fact there had been such an intention.

Several inexplicable situations have occurred in connection with this trial. Outstanding among these is the fact that confessed culprit Michael Townley, the U.S. citizen who planted the bomb in the former Chilean foreign minister's car, will appear in court only as a witness.

As is already known, Townley is a former agent of the National Intelligence Department [DINA], a type of Chilean gestapo currently operating under another name, and of the CIA, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Only Cuban counterrevolutionaries Guillermo and Ignacio Novo (Sanpol) and Alvin Ross Diaz will appear in court as defendants. All three were trained by the CIA to carry out any type of attack, particularly those conceived against the Cuban Revolution. Two other Cuban counterrevolutionaries, Virgilio Paz and Jose Dionisio Suarez, are still at large.

But three high-ranking Chilean military officers who participated in the planning and execution of the crime are not among the defendants. They are Gen Manuel Contreras, Col Pedro Espinosa and Capt Armando Fernandez, the director, assistant director and an official of DINA, respectively, at the time of the assassination.

Last August, a U.S. grand jury requested the extradition of these three officers, but so far the Chilean fascist junta has not made a decision on the subject. Besides, it will be very difficult for the coupist generals to comply with that request because the confessions of Contreras, Espinosa and Fernandez Larios would uncover many of the crimes of the fascist clique and of its top figure, Gen Augusto Pinochet.

Trying to avoid responsibilities, both Townley and Gen Manuel Contreras have revealed that it was Pinochet who personally ordered Orlando Letelier's assassination, as well as the attacks carried out against Gen Carlos Pratts in Buenos Aires and Christian Democratic leader Bernardo Leighton in Rome.

This means that the main culprits of the assassination of Orlando Letelier and Ronni Moffit will not be present at the farce that has already begun in Washington. Naturally, Augusto Pinochet will not be present. Neither will the CIA be present to respond to the crime. The CIA is responsible for the training of the Cuban counterrevolutionaries and the DINA elements who carried out this and other assassinations.

Also, there will be no FBI official to explain to the judges why this U.S. Government organization refused to give protection to the former Chilean foreign minister, even though it was perfectly familiar with the plots to assassinate him.

Also, the trial will not concern itself with the pretexts that the U.S. Government might allege in an effort to justify its acquiescence in letting terrorists at the service of Chile's fascist regime act with total impunity on U.S. territory.

In the spurious trial taking place in Washington, the main culprits in the assassination of Orlando Letelier and in many other crimes will not be punished because to do this, Pinochet and his clique, as well as the representatives of Yankee imperialism who made it possible for a group of assassins to brutally seize power in Chile, would have to appear in court as defendants.

BRIEFS

WARSHIP DELIVERIES NOTED--Following the delivery of some MiG-23s, Cuba is said to have received from the USSR two OSA-II-class warships, each having four Styx SS-N-2 missile-launching ramps. [Text] [Paris AVIATION MAGAZINE INTERNATIONAL 1-14 Jan 79 p 17 WA]

JAMAICA

CARICOM FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET 24 JANUARY

PA111728Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1609 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Guyana, 11 Jan (AFP)--An official source disclosed here today that the foreign ministers of the member states of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) will meet in Jamaica on 24 and 25 January.

The source added that the objective of the meeting is to analyze those states' foreign policy and especially the problem of Belize, whose sovereignty is claimed by Guatemala.

The foreign ministers will also examine the conclusions of the recent quadripartite meeting in Guadeloupe which was attended by the chiefs of state or government of France, Great Britain, the United States and West Germany.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

OWTU TO PRESS FOR GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF OIL INDUSTRY

FL111610Y Georgetown Guyana CHRONICLE in English 5 Jan 79 p 4 FL

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad--The Trinidad and Tobago Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) will press government to take over the entire oil industry in the country and form one national company for its operation, President General George Weekes has told CANA.

Mr. Weekes said that would be the union's demand when a government-ordered public probe into the local operations of the U.S.-based Texaco Corporation starts here later this month. "My union is not concerned only with Texaco. The union has been saying all along that the entire oil industry should be in the control of Trinidad and Tobago under the umbrella of one company," Mr. Weekes said.

He was speaking after an emergency meeting of the union's executive called to consider a decision by the country's cabinet appointing a commission of enquiry into Texaco's operations, with special reference to the country's energy policy and the company's critical role in social and economic development. The probe was ordered after cabinet considered allegations made by the union that Texaco was not operating in the best interest of Trinidad and Tobago and that its performance was creating an "explosive" situation in the country.

Other oil companies operating in Trinidad are Amoco, Tesoro and Trintoc. Trintoc is nationally owned while the government has shares in the other U.S.-based companies.

Mr. Weekes said his union has pledged to support the government "in every respect for the full take-over and operation of all the oil companies in the national interest." "While my union welcomes the probe, we think that it is quite unnecessary. Of course we will give our full co-operation to the commission and the government. But we think that government should go ahead and nationalise the companies."

Earlier M.E.G. Stibbs, Texaco's general manager, said in a prepared statement that his company welcomed the probe which would give Texaco an opportunity "to clear up once and for all any misconception surrounding its operations.